

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A wear assembly for an excavator comprising:

a base component fixed to the excavator and including a nose;

a wear component having a wearable surface and a cavity to receive the nose, the wear and base components including aligned holes to form an opening having a peripheral shape; and

a lock removably received in the opening for releasably holding the wear component to the base component, the lock including a body and a locking member movably mounted to the body for rotational movement about an axis between a release position and a locking position, the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an outline shape about the axis with the locking member in the release position so that the lock is received within the peripheral shape of the opening when inserted therein generally in an axial direction, the locking member being at least partially outside of the outline shape when in the locking position such that at least part of the locking member sets opposite an inner surface formed in the opening to prevent removal of the lock from the opening, and the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an axial ~~depth~~ length that is the same in each of the release and locking positions so as to position the lock in each said hole when the lock is installed in the opening free of substantial axial pressure.

Claim 2 (canceled).

3. (original) The wear assembly of claim 1 wherein the body includes a rigid part and a resilient part, and the resilient part engages the locking member to releasably retain the locking member in the release and locking positions.

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4. (original) The wear assembly of claim 3 wherein the locking member includes a shank having a non-circular cross sectional configuration, the resilient part of the body includes a hole for receiving the shank, the resilient part is in a relaxed state when the locking member is in the release and locking positions, and the resilient part is in a stretched state when the locking member is moving between the release and locking positions.

5. (original) The wear assembly of claim 1 wherein the locking member includes a head engageable by a tool for rotating the locking member between the release and locking positions.

6. (original) The wear assembly of claim 5 wherein the head includes at least one ledge for engagement by a tool for axially pulling the lock from the opening.

7. (original) The wear assembly of claim 1 wherein the body and the locking member each includes a bearing surface, and wherein, in the locking position, the bearing surface of the body engages the wear component and the bearing surface of the locking member engages the base component.

8. (original) The wear assembly of claim 7 wherein the bearing surface of the locking member is spaced from the bearing surface of the body a first distance in the release position and a second distance in the locking position, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance so that the lock tightens the fit of the wear component on the base component when the locking member is moved to the locking position.

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9. (previously presented) The wear assembly of claim 1 wherein the wear component includes a sidewall having an inner face and an outer face defining the thickness of the sidewall, the hole in the wear component is defined in the sidewall by a peripheral edge wall, and the peripheral edge wall has (1) a rear portion with a bearing face that extends substantially the entire distance between the inner and outer faces to contact the lock and thereby retain the wear component on the base component, and (2) a relief portion defined by (i) a stop wall having a thickness that is less than that thickness of the sidewall and (ii) a recess between the stop wall and the inner surface of the sidewall for receiving at least a portion of the locking member that extends outside of the outline shape when the locking member is moved to the locking position to thereby prevent removal of the lock from the opening.

10. (currently amended) A wear assembly for an excavating operation comprising:

a base component to be fixed to an excavator and including a nose;

a wear component; and

a lock for releasably holding the wear component to the base component;

the wear component including a wearable surface, a cavity adapted to receive the nose of the base component, at least one sidewall having an inner face and an outer face defining the thickness of the sidewall, and a hole defined by a peripheral edge wall in the sidewall to receive a lock to hold the wear component to the base component, the peripheral edge wall having (1) a rear bearing portion defined by that portion of the peripheral edge wall that contacts the lock in resisting forward

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movement of the wear component during use, the entire rear with a bearing face that extends portion extending substantially the entire distance between the inner and outer faces to contact the lock and thereby retain the wear component on the base component, and (2) a relief portion defined by (i) a stop wall having a thickness that is less than that thickness of the sidewall and (ii) a recess between the stop wall and the inner surface of the sidewall for receiving a movable tab of the lock and thereby retaining the lock.

Claims 11-14 (canceled).

15. (previously presented) A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to an excavator, the lock comprising a body and a locking member secured to the body for movement between a release position and a locking position, the locking member including a shank having a non-circular cross sectional configuration, the body including a resilient part having a hole for receiving the shank, the resilient part ~~is~~ being in generally a relaxed state when the locking member is in the release and locking positions, and the resilient part ~~is~~ being in a stretched state when the locking member is moving between the release and locking positions.

16. (previously presented) The lock of claim 15 wherein the body further includes a rigid part that defines a cavity into which the resilient part is received.

17. (previously presented) The lock of claim 16 wherein the rigid part includes a front surface and a rear surface, and the rear surface has a longer axial extension than the front surface.

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18. (previously presented) The lock of claim 15 wherein the locking member includes a head engageable by a tool for rotating the locking member between the release and locking positions.

19. (original) The lock of claim 18 wherein the head includes a pair of opposite ledges for engagement by a tool for axially pulling the lock from the opening in the wear and base components.

20. (currently amended) A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to a base component in an excavating operation, the wear and base components including aligned holes to form a lock receiving opening, the lock comprising:

a body and a locking member movably mounted to the body for movement between a release position and a locking position, the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an outline shape with the locking member in the release position for receipt in the lock receiving opening; and

the locking member being secured to the body for movement limited to rotation about an axis, the locking member including a tab that is within the outline shape when the locking member is in the release position and is at least partially outside of the outline shape when the locking member is in the locking position such that at least part of the tab sets opposite an inner surface of the wear component to prevent removal of the lock from the lock receiving opening.

wherein the body and the locking member each includes a bearing surface, and wherein, in the locking position, the bearing surface of the body engages the wear component and the bearing surface of the locking member engages the base component.

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21. (original) The lock of claim 20 wherein the bearing surface of the locking member is spaced from the bearing surface of the body a first distance in the release position and a second distance in the locking position, and wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance so that the lock tightens the fit of the wear component on the base component when the locking member is moved to the locking position.

22. (previously presented) A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to a base component in an excavating operation, the wear and base components including aligned holes to form a lock receiving opening, the lock comprising:

a body and a locking member mounted to the body for movement between a release position and a locking position, the body and locking member cooperatively defining an outline shape with the locking member in the release position for receipt in the lock receiving opening;

the body including a rigid part and a resilient part;

the locking member being secured to the body for rotational movement about an axis between the release position and the locking position, the locking member including a shank along the axis and a tab that is within the outline shape when the locking member is in the release position and is at least partially outside of the outline shape when the locking member is in the locking position such that at least part of the tab sets opposite an inner surface of the wear component to prevent removal of the lock from the components; and

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wherein the resilient part of the body includes a hole for receiving the shank to thereby releasably retain the locking member in the release and locking positions.

23. (original) The lock of claim 22 wherein the shank has a non-circular cross sectional configuration and the hole in the resilient part receives the shank in a relaxed state when the locking member is in the release and locking positions, and in a stretched state when the locking member is moving between the release and locking positions.

24. (original) The lock of claim 22 wherein the body includes bearing surfaces to contact the wear component and the base component to prevent removal of the wear component from the base component.

25. (original) The lock of claim 24 wherein the rigid part of the body defines a cavity into which the resilient part is received.

26. (original) The lock of claim 25 wherein the rigid part has a front surface and a rear surface, and the rear surface has a longer axial extension than the front surface.

27. (original) The lock of claim 22 wherein the locking member includes a head for rotating the locking member between the release and locking positions, and includes a pair of opposite ledges for engagement by a tool for axially pulling the lock from the opening in the wear and base components.

28. (original) The lock of claim 22 wherein the body and the locking member each includes a bearing surface, and wherein, in the locking position, the bearing surface of the body engages the wear component and the bearing surface of the locking member engages the base component.

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29. (original) The lock of claim 28 wherein the bearing surface of the locking member is spaced from the bearing surface of the body a first distance in the release position and a second distance in the locking position, and wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance so that the lock tightens the fit of the wear component on the base component when the locking member is moved to the locking position.

Claims 30-31 (canceled).

32. (previously presented) A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to a base component in an excavating operation, the wear and base components including aligned holes to form a lock receiving opening, the lock comprising:

a body and a locking member mounted to the body for movement between a release position and a locking position, the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an outline shape with the locking member in the release position for receipt in the lock receiving opening;

the body including a bearing surface to contact the wear component to prevent removal of the wear component from the base component; and

the locking member being secured to the body for rotational movement about an axis, the locking member being movable between a release position and a locking position, and including a tab that is (i) within the outline shape when the locking member is in the release position, (ii) at least partially outside of the outline shape when the locking member is in the locking position such that at least part of the tab

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sets opposite an inner surface of the wear component to prevent removal of the lock from the components, and (iii) axially to one side of the bearing surface at all times;

wherein the body includes a rigid part and a resilient part, and the resilient part engages the locking member to releasably retain the locking member in the release and locking positions; and

wherein the locking member includes a shank having a non-circular cross sectional configuration, the resilient part of the body includes a hole for receiving the shank, the resilient part is in a relaxed state when the locking member is in the release and locking positions, and the resilient part is in a stretched state when the locking member is moving between the release and locking positions.

33. (previously presented) A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to a mounting portion of an excavator, the lock comprising a body and a locking member secured to the body for movement between a release position and a locking position, wherein the body and the locking member each includes a bearing surface, wherein the bearing surfaces face in opposite directions, wherein, in the locking position, one of the bearing surfaces engages the wear component and the other of the bearing surfaces engages the mounting portion of the excavator, wherein the bearing surfaces are spaced apart a first distance in the release position and a second distance in the locking position, and wherein the second distance is larger than the first distance to tighten the fit of the wear component onto the mounting portion of the excavator.

Claims 34 and 35 (canceled).

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36. (previously presented) A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to a base component in an excavating operation, the wear and base components including aligned holes to form a lock receiving opening, the lock comprising:

a body and a locking member mounted to the body for movement between a release position and a locking position, the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an outline shape with the locking member in the release position for receipt in the lock receiving opening; the locking member including a head for rotating the locking member between the release and locking positions, and including a pair of opposite ledges for engagement by a tool for axially pulling the lock from the lock receiving opening; and

the locking member being secured to the body for rotational movement about an axis between a release position and a locking position, and including a tab that is within the outline shape when the locking member is in the release position and is at least partially outside of the outline shape when the locking member is in the locking position such that at least part of the tab sets opposite an inner surface of the wear component to prevent removal of the lock from the components.

37. (original) The lock of claim 36 wherein the head further includes a retaining wall extending from each ledge to position the tool for pulling the lock from the lock receiving opening, and wherein at least a portion of the retaining wall is unopposed by another surface of the lock for coupling of the tool to the lock.

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38. (original) The lock of claim 36 wherein the body includes bearing surfaces to contact the wear component and the base component to prevent removal of the wear component from the base component.

39. (original) The lock of claim 36 wherein the body includes a rigid part and a resilient part, the resilient part engaging the locking member to releasably retain the locking member in the release and locking positions.

40. (original) The lock of claim 36 wherein the body and the locking member each includes a bearing surface, and wherein, in the locking position, the bearing surface of the body engages the wear component and the bearing surface of the locking member engages the base component.

41. (original) The lock of claim 40 wherein the bearing surface of the locking member is spaced from the bearing surface of the body a first distance in the release position and a second distance in the locking position, wherein the second distance is greater than the first distance so that the lock tightens the fit of the wear component on the base component when the locking member is moved to the locking position.

42. (currently amended) A wear component for an excavating operation, the wear component comprising a wearable surface, a cavity adapted to receive the nose of the base component, at least one sidewall having an inner face and an outer face defining the thickness of the sidewall, and a hole defined by a peripheral edge wall in the sidewall to receive a lock to hold the wear component to the base component, the peripheral edge wall having (1) a rear bearing portion defined by that portion of the peripheral edge wall that contacts the lock in resisting forward

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movement of the wear component during use, the entire rear with a bearing face that
~~extends~~ substantially the entire distance between the inner and outer face to contact
the lock and thereby retain the wear component on the base component, and (2) a
relief portion defined by (i) a stop wall having a thickness that is less than that
thickness of the sidewall and (ii) a recess between the stop wall and the inner
surface of the sidewall for receiving a movable tab of the lock and thereby retaining
the lock.

43. (previously presented) The lock of claim 15 wherein the hole and
shank each have a generally square cross-sectional shape.

44. (currently amended) A wear assembly for attachment to an excavator,
the wear assembly comprising a base fixed to the excavator, a wear part including a
cavity to receive the base, and a lock including a body and a locking member
movably secured to the body, to releasably hold the wear part to the base,

the base including a first hole and the wear part including a second hole in
communication with the cavity and generally aligned with the first hole when the
base is received in the cavity, the first and second holes collective defining an
opening for receiving the lock which is inserted in the opening along a first axis, the
opening defining a first outline shape about the first axis,

the lock having (i) a second axis which is generally parallel to the first axis
when the lock is inserted into the opening, (ii) a second outline shape that fits within
the first outline shape in a first orientation to permit the lock to be placed into the
opening, and that is partially outside of the first outline shape in a second orientation
of the lock wherein the locking member is rotationally displaced from the first

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orientation to prevent removal of the lock from the opening, and (iii) an axial depth that length that remains the same in the first and second orientations so that the lock is free of substantial axial pressure when installed in the opening.

45. (canceled).

46. (currently amended) The wear assembly of claim ~~[[45]]~~ 44 wherein the body includes a resilient part having a non-circular aperture, and the locking member includes a non-circular shank substantially conforming to the aperture and received into the aperture, the resilient part holding the shank in either the first or second orientation in a generally relaxed state and being stretchable to permit the locking member to move between the first orientation and the second orientation.

47. (previously presented) A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to an excavator, the lock comprising a body and a locking member secured to the body for movement between a release position and a locking position, the locking member including a shank and the body including a resilient part having a hole for receiving the shank, the hole and the shank having conforming polygonal cross sectional shapes, the resilient part being in a first state when the locking member is in the release and locking positions, and the resilient part being in a second state stretched relative to the first state when the locking member is moving between the release and locking positions.

48. (previously presented) A wear assembly for an excavator comprising:

a mounting portion of the excavator;

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a wear member shaped to complement the mounting portion for attachment to the excavator, the wear member and mounting portion collectively defining an opening;

a lock for releasably coupling the wear component to the mounting portion of the excavator, the lock comprising a body and a locking member secured to the body for movement between a release position and a locking position, wherein the body and the locking member each includes a bearing surface, wherein the bearing surfaces face in opposite directions, wherein, in the locking position, one of the bearing surfaces engages the wear component and the other of the bearing surfaces engages the mounting portion of the excavator, wherein the bearing surfaces are spaced apart a first distance in the release position and a second distance in the locking position, and wherein the second distance is larger than the first distance to tighten the fit of the wear component onto the mounting portion of the excavator.

49. (new) A lock for releasably coupling a wear component to an excavator, the lock comprising a body and a locking member secured to the body for movement between a release position and a locking position,

the body including a hole having a generally square cross sectional shape that defines a plurality of flats,

the locking member including a shank having a longitudinal axis, the shank being received into the hole in the body for rotating movement about the axis and cooperating with the flats to releasably hold the locking member alternatively in the release position and the locking position,

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the locking member being positioned within a peripheral outline of the body in the release position to permit installation and removal of the lock, and being positioned partially outside of the peripheral outline of the body in the locking position to prevent removal of the lock.

50. (new) A wear assembly for an excavator comprising:

a base component fixed to the excavator and including a nose;

a wear component having a wearable surface and a cavity to receive the nose, the wear and base components including aligned holes to form an opening having a peripheral shape; and

a lock removably received in the opening for releasably holding the wear component to the base component, the lock including a body having a generally square cross sectional shape that defines a plurality of flats, and a locking member including a shank received into the hole in the body for rotating movement about an axis between a release position and a locking position, the shank cooperating with the flats to releasably hold the locking member alternatively in the release position and the locking position, the body and the locking member cooperatively defining an outline shape about the axis with the locking member in the release position so that the lock is received within the peripheral shape of the opening when inserted therein generally in an axial direction, and the locking member being at least partially outside of the outline shape when in the locking position such that at least part of the locking member sets opposite an inner surface formed in the opening to prevent removal of the lock from the opening.

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